



## Beaverton Police Department

4755 S.W. Griffith Drive  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chief Geoff Spalding



# NEWS RELEASE

Officer Mike Rowe  
Public Information Officer  
(503) 969-6502 or 526-2275

Released: April 7, 2014  
Case No: N/A

## **2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

Only 30 years ago, crime victims had virtually no rights and no assistance. The criminal justice system often seemed indifferent to their needs. Victims were commonly excluded from courtrooms and denied the chance to speak at sentencing. They had no access to victim compensation or services to help rebuild their lives. There were few avenues to deal with their emotional and physical wounds. Victims were on their own to recover their health, security, and dignity.

Today, the nation has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws and all have victim compensation programs. More than 10,000 victim service agencies now help people throughout the country. In 1984, Congress passed the bipartisan Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which created a national fund to ease victims' suffering. Financed not by taxpayers but by fines and penalties paid by offenders, the Crime Victims Fund supports victim services, such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs and victim compensation programs that pay many of victims' out-of-pocket expenses from the crime, such as counseling, funeral expenses, and lost wages.

Victims' rights advocates have scored remarkable victories over the last 30 years. But there is still a lot of work to be done. As we move forward, we are increasingly expanding our reach to previously underserved victim populations, including victims of color, American Indians and Alaska Natives, adults molested as children, victims of elder abuse, and LGBTQ victims. Over three decades, VOCA pioneered support efforts for victims of once-hidden crimes, like domestic and sexual violence. Today, we are shining a spotlight on other abuses that have long been unreported and often not prosecuted—hate and bias crimes, bullying, and sex and labor trafficking, among others.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be held April 6–12 in communities throughout the nation. In Washington, DC, the U.S. Department of Justice will kick off the week with OVC's annual Service Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime. Law enforcement agencies in Washington County will observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a fundraising BBQ hosted by the Washington County DA's Office, this event is open to the public. The funds raised by this event will be used for emergency services for victims in Washington County. The BBQ will be held on April 8, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Washington County Public Services Building Cafeteria located at 155 N. First Ave. Hillsboro, Oregon 97124.

The Beaverton Police Department will have advocates at this event talking about our new app that is available on Apple products. This app provides victims with fast access to contact information for many resources that are available as well as victims' rights. The app is free and is available in the Apple app store and can be found by searching Beaverton Police. The goal of this app is to provide victims an easy and safe way to locate all the rights and resources that are available to them. Many times victims are afraid to use the home computer to search for help; this app allows the victim to search for help in a safe place.

##BPD##

